

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 09406

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (BRZEZINSKI, ZBIGNIEW), JA

SUBJECT: REACTION TO BRZEZINSKI VISIT

REF: TOKYO 9141

1. GOVERNMENT AND MEDIA REACTION TO DR. BRZEZINSKI'S TOKYO VISIT HAS BEEN UNIFORMLY FAVORABLE. CONVERSATIONS HERE WERE SEEN AS EARNEST OF U.S. INTENTION TO CONSULT CLOSELY WITH JAPANESE NOT ONLY ON DEVELOPMENTS IN U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS BUT ON BROAD RANGE OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL AND STRATEGIC QUESTIONS IN SPIRIT OF MATURE PARTNERSHIP.

2. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WITH WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN HAVE EXPRESSED COMPLETE SATISFACTION WITH DR. BRZEZINSKI'S VISIT. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS FELT THAT DR. BRZEZINSKI'S BRIEFINGS ON RESULTS OF CHINA VISIT WERE CANDID AND FULL. THEY WERE REASSURED AS TO STEADINESS OF OUR APPROACH TOWARD ISSUE OF NORMALIZATION WITH PRC, AND CONTINUING VALIDITY OF OUR COMMITMENT TO DEFENSE OF ROK, AND WELCOMED EVIDENCE OF CONTINUING VIGOR WITH WHICH WE INTERPRET OUR ROLE IN EAST ASIA.

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3. JAPANESE WERE DELIGHTED WITH DR. BRZEZINSKI'S EXPOSITION OF GLOBAL STRATEGY IN MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SONODA. WHILE THEY HAD READ OF HIS CONCEPT OF "REGIONAL INFLUENTIALS," FOR EXAMPLE, THEY FOUND IT MOST ENLIGHTENING TO HAVE THIS EXPLAINED FIRST HAND. IN EMBASSY VIEW THIS PART OF PRESENTATION IN PARTICULAR FILLED A

LONG-FELT JAPANESE NEED TO RELATE VARIOUS US POLICIES IN GLOBAL CONTEXT. IN ADDITION TO SUBSTANCE OF DR. BRZEZINSKI'S REMARKS TO FOREIGN MINISTER, JAPANESE SIDE WAS QUIETLY PLEASED WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SONODA'S OWN PERFORMANCE, FEELING THAT HE DISPLAYED BREADTH AND SENSITIVITY IN TREATMENT OF THE ISSUES AND PUT FORWARD JAPAN'S VIEWS WITH CONVICTION AND TO GOOD EFFECT.

4. MEDIA TREATMENT OF MAY 23 MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER WAS GENERALLY WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF PRESS GUIDELINES PROVIDED BEFOREHAND TO FOREIGN MINISTRY (REFTEL). PRESS REPORTS STRESSED THAT DR. BRZEZINSKI AFFIRMED U.S. DETERMINATION TO DEVELOP STRONGER RELATIONSHIP WITH PEKING AND TO PURSUE NORMALIZATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE. DR. BRZEZINSKI'S CHARACTERIZATION OF PEKING CONVERSATIONS AS "VERY USEFUL, IMPORTANT AND CONSTRUCTIVE" WAS WIDELY REPORTED. PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT DR. BRZEZINSKI TOLD FUKUDA CHINESE HAD EXPRESSED A "FORWARD LOOKING ATTITUDE" TOWARD CONCLUSION OF JAPAN-CHINA PFT, AND THAT CHINESE IMPLICITLY AGREED STRONG US-JAPAN TIES WERE VITAL TO PEACE AND SECURITY OF EAST ASIA. DR. BRZEZINSKI WAS REPORTED TO HAVE TOLD FUKUDA THAT HE AND CHINESE LEADERS FAILED TO REACH AGREEMENT ON KOREAN QUESTION, AND TO HAVE REAFFIRMED TO FUKUDA IMPORTANCE U.S. ATTACHED TO STABILITY ON PENINSULA AND OUR DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN OUR COMMITMENT THERE. PRESS REPORTS OF CONFIDENTIAL

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MAY 24 MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SONODA SIMILARLY ADHERED CLOSELY TO PREVIOUSLY AGREED GUIDELINES. PRESS EMPHASIZED DR. BRZEZINSKI'S REAFFIRMATION OF STRONG US ROLE IN ASIA, AND HIS EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR JAPAN'S MORE ACTIVE ASIAN DIPLOMACY.

II5. CO YENT: DESPITE ITS BREVITY, DR. BRZEZINSKI'S VISIT CLEARLY SERVED TO ADVANCE US-JAPAN CONSULTATIVE RELATIONSHIP. HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER AND DIALOGUE WHICH ENSUED CONFIRMED ESSENTIAL PARALLELISM OF OUR RESPECTIVE APPROACHES TOWARD CHINA AND KOREAN PENINSULA, TWO FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES OF DEEPEST CONCERN TO JAPANESE, AS WELL AS TOWARD OTHER MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY QUESTIONS. IN ADDITION TO DR. BRZEZINSKI'S DISCUSSIONS, SIDE MEETINGS OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE AND OTHER MEMBERS OF PARTY WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS AND ACADEMICS, WERE ALSO MOST USEFUL IN BROADENING US-JAPAN POLITICAL AND STRATEGIC DIALOGUE. MANSFIELD

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